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ORIGINAL ESSAYS AND SELECTIONS

ON

**AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE,
RURAL AND DOMESTIC ECONOMY,**

AND

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS;

WITH

ILLUSTRATIVE ENGRAVINGS AND THE PRICES OF COUNTRY PRODUCE.

JOHN S. SKINNER, EDITOR.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint,

"Agrisolas.....VIRG.

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IN REPLY TO AGRICOLA—No. 52.

"Old facts better than new" stories.

To the Editor of the *American Farmer*.

Sir,

I congratulate you, upon the display of subtle talent, which has not merely traced the properties, qualities, and propensities, of certain bulls, and calves, but has most ingeniously, attempted to expound the "blind prejudices," "partialities," and motives of some of your active friends. Although you, very naturally court for the columns of the *Farmer*, the elaborate, and excursive effusions of accomplished, and erudite writers, whose sarcasm, could give point, or whose eloquence, might convey zest, for your paper; yet I am assured, that you will not forget, that if professional authors, sometimes gain notoriety, whilst dealing in fiction, farmers, and men of "understanding," have a strange, old fashioned regard, for fact. Without noticing the "challenge," or appeals to "good judgment," I shall confine myself to the passages, to which Agricola adverts, quoting the Report of the Philadelphia Show, whence his assertions without evidence, his imputations without justice, his jests without point, and his plaudits without reason, are mainly derived.

I have not the slightest objection, that he should assert, that the wealthy, and zealous proprietor, of the Hampton Estate, possesses a better breed of cattle, than the united efforts of all the breeders of Europe, or America can produce: nor shall I labour

to confute, by a newspaper essay, the notions, with which any untiring writer, may find amusement for your readers, or himself.

It was not contended, "page 74, vol. 5," that "whatever excellence, may be found, in any other breed, is to be traced to a certain degree of relationship, to the Short Horns." Curwen but said—"among my stock, a Chinese and Devon heifer, a yearling and cow, from an imported Devon, by an English bull, also heifers, and cows, bred upon our meadows and mountains, have been placed to decide the questions which have caused, among breeders, so much dispute. All my experience has shown, that the extent of excellence, in the animal, whether in points, properties, shape, disposition; early maturity, or tendency to secrete fat, or afford rich milk, is determined by the degree of affinity to the pure race of *Improved Short Horns*."

Here is a direct allusion to the *previous passage*, referring to the contrast, made with Short Horns, and the animals which had been placed among the stock to determine the question, &c.

It is strangely alleged by Agricola, that "a correspondent would fain induce the serious belief, that the Teeswaters possess the amazing quality of being able to subsist without food."

Here again he imagines, the word Teeswater, which, on reference to the paper, to which his note applies, cannot be found.

I would ask whether, even a citizen farmer, may not have read, that in Maryland, cattle are some-

times coerced to find support upon maize stalks, husks and growing rye, when "the barns are without fodder, and the fields are bare of grass, in the spring."

Page 122, vol. 4, *American Farmer*, the report of the Philadelphia Cattle Show, barely mentions, in the following words, the animal which has enabled Agricola to fill two columns of your paper. "The premium for the best steer, not more than five nor less than one year old, \$10, to Mr. Lowry for his *brindle and white* steer of three years, raised by himself."

He was not exhibited, as of Teeswater blood, nor was he so called, at the Show, nor even since, until a wag, with a view of hoaxing the Dilletanti, stated to a respectable butcher, that a gentleman, whose name has influence in such *weighty* concerns, thought he showed a *little of the old Heaton Teeswater blood* imported in 1794.

Page 74, vol. 5, *American Farmer*, Curwen states, after having possessed cattle of "families of various degrees of affinity to the pure race of Short Horns, carried to New York by Col. Deveau and Mr. Heaton, and having given great prices for them, as well as others, yet the best of them all he sold for but sixty dollars a head, about the time he gave nearly five hundred dollars for two *Improved Short Horn* cows."

Your obedient servant,
VERITAS.